

**44 Carlin Drive
Mastic, NY 11950**

December 6, 2001

Attorney General John Ashcroft
United States Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my sentiments regarding the Microsoft settlement. I feel that your office has reached a fair settlement that will finally provide certainty about the new rules imposed on the IT sector. I do not see any benefit in pursuing further litigation at the federal level; I am happy to see that your office will be free to pursue the more urgent matters affecting our nation.

I feel that this lawsuit has had a direct impact on both the federal and states' budgets. These budgets are presently challenged, and it doesn't make sense to spend scarce resources on a battle that has already been won. In short, it is time to move on. We must ensure that the technology industry returns its focus to innovation rather than litigation. The longer this battle lasts, the better the chance that we may lose our competitive advantage in the world technology market.

The settlement will benefit all sectors of the economy. Resumption of competition will stimulate our economy and give consumers more choices. As far as the competition is concerned, Microsoft will change the way it develops, licenses, and markets its software in order to accommodate independent vendors.

We don't need more federal litigation to keep Microsoft in check. Under the settlement, competitors can sue Microsoft if they don't think the company is complying with the terms of the agreement. The complaints that brought about the lawsuit have been addressed, and your office has set up protocol on how to handle future problems. The Justice Department has done its job. Now it is time to let businesses compete in the marketplace, not special interests in the Senate. I want to let you know that I approve of your settlement, and I appreciate your taking the time to hear my opinions on the matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James M. Cox", is written over a horizontal line.

James M. Cox